

Message

From: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/6/2020 8:49:41 PM
To: Verhalen, Frances [verhalen.frances@epa.gov]; Leathers, James [Leathers.James@epa.gov]
CC: Thompson, Steve [thompson.steve@epa.gov]; Lannen, Justin [Lannen.Justin@epa.gov]; Casso, Ruben [Casso.Ruben@epa.gov]; Robinson, Jeffrey [Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Stucky, Marie [Stucky.Marie@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Great, thank you!

From: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>; Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

One change, Jennah.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
Air Monitoring & Grants Section
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Elm Street, Suite 500 (MC 6ARPM)
Dallas, TX 75270
214-665-2172
verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>
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I made some edits. Let me know if this version is OK.

And I see the EPA data monitoring sheet hasn't been updated since the end of March. Is it just updated quarterly? EPA expects to receive an updated monitoring data summary ~~air sample analysis~~ from the lab contractor within a few weeks, and approximately every four to six weeks after that. The data monitoring sheet will be updated as we receive the analyses.

Do the results between January and March show improvement compared to what the St. John folks are indicating in their comparison of 2018 and 2019 data?

EPA continues to see a downward trend in the ambient air concentrations for chloroprene compared to samples collected before March 2018. In March 2018, Denka began fully operating new controls to reduce the chloroprene emissions. EPA generally does not comment on outside studies.

And what is the status of the new continuous air monitoring program? In his Feb. 20 letter to DEQ Sec. Brown, regional administrator McQueen said it would be in place by the beginning of May

EPA's new SPod monitoring network is installed and operational. SPods consist of a stationary photoionization detector (PID), a meteorological station to record weather data, and one or more summa canisters for sampling. The PID measures total volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the ambient air and, when VOC concentrations reach a certain threshold, a canister will collect a sample that will be measured for chloroprene in a laboratory. The SPods are going through an initial phase of setting the VOC thresholds that will trigger canister sample collection. EPA expects to have chloroprene data from the SPod network posted soon on EPA's LaPlace, Louisiana - Air Monitoring website.

From: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 2:51 PM

To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>; Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>

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Jennah, we send the samples to ERG under a national ambient air monitoring contract. Now that we are sampling once every six days, we have negotiated to receive the sample results on a monthly basis. Because of COVID-19, the lab is running at short staff and on shifts to be socially distanced. We are experiencing a slight delay (about a week) in getting the data. As of this morning we are expecting a data package later this week or first of next week.

Fran

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From: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 2:43 PM

To: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Thanks, Fran and James. Fran--what lab sends the samples? Is there a set schedule for how often that's supposed to happen?

From: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 9:34 AM

To: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>

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Jennah, I have additional internal information for Q2 if you want it.

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

The data is updated after the samples results are received from the analytical laboratory and reviewed for quality assurance by the EPA Regional office. EPA Region 6 has not received any new sample analyses later than March 24, 2020.

Do the results between January and March show improvement compared to what the St. John folks are indicating in their comparison of 2018 and 2019 data?

EPA continues to see a downward trend in the ambient air concentrations for chloroprene compared to samples collected before March 2018. In March 2018, Denka began full operation of newly installed controls which reduce the chloroprene being emitted. Without knowing how the St. John folks evaluated and analyzed their data, it is difficult to compare the two datasets.

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From: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 9:25 AM

To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>

Cc: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Lannen, Justin <Lannen.Justin@epa.gov>; Casso, Ruben <Casso.Ruben@epa.gov>; Robinson, Jeffrey <Robinson.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Stucky, Marie <Stucky.Marie@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Hi Jennah,

I have coordinated and ARD (air program), and they will take the lead on drafting a response to the first two questions.

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

EPA's new SPod monitoring network is installed and operational. SPods consist of a stationary photoionization detector (PID), a meteorological station to record weather data, and one or more summa canisters for sampling. The PID measures for total volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the ambient air and, when VOC concentrations reach a certain threshold, a canister will collect a sample that will be measured for chloroprene in a laboratory. The SPods are going through an initial phase of setting the VOC thresholds that will trigger canister sample collection. EPA expects to have chloroprene data from the SPod network posted soon on EPA's LaPlace, Louisiana - Air Monitoring website.

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From: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Leathers, James <Leathers.James@epa.gov>; Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Hi all—

Please see the below inquiry on Denka monitoring. What can we say about these questions?

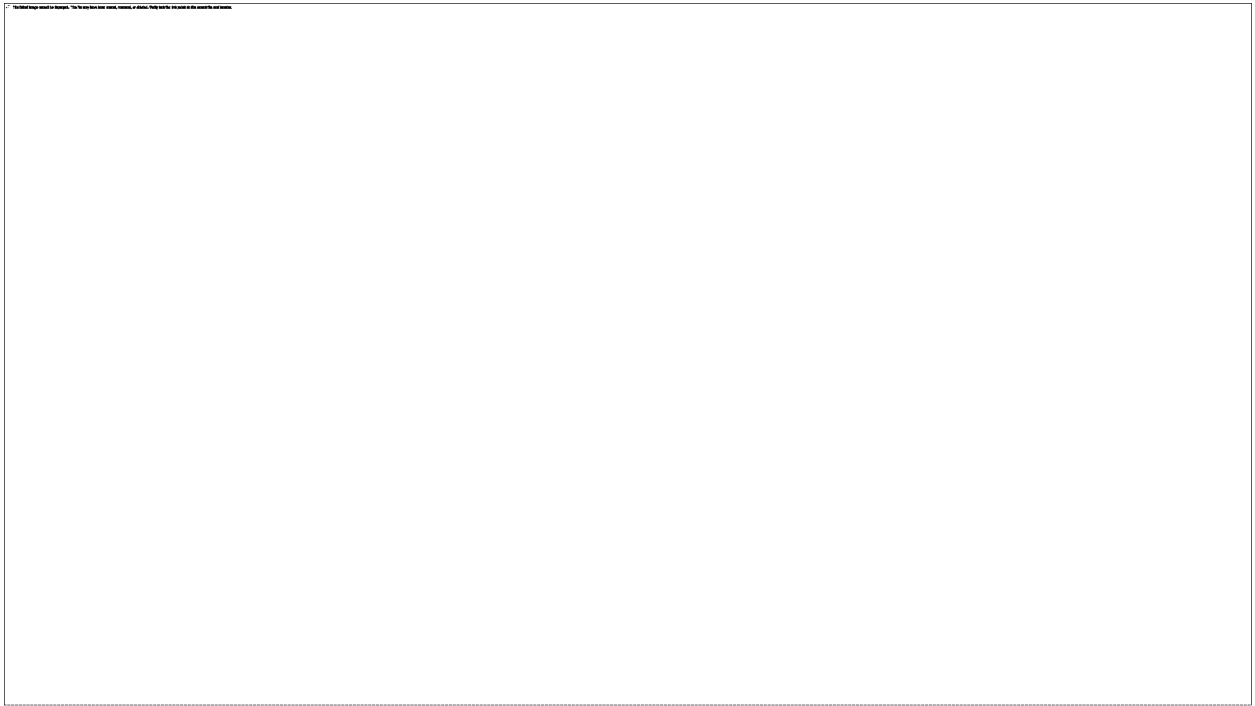
Jennah

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

From: Frances Madeson <francesmadeson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:19 AM
To: francesmadeson@gmail.com
Subject: PRESS RELEASE from Concerned Citizens of St. John Regarding Denka Emissions Data Report

Concerned Citizens of St. John

CONTACT: Frances Madeson
412-616-0109



FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
May 5, 2020

**Comparison of 2018 and 2019 Chloroprene Emissions Levels from Denka Dupont
Elastomer Plant Shows Levels Remain Frighteningly Unsafe with No Significant
Improvement**

**St. John residents horrified that outsized rates of risk for cancer and chronic illnesses
continue unabated**

Dear Valued Member of the Press:

Please find attached a Press Release from Concerned Citizens of St. John with Slides of the Monitoring Data. I am happy to liaise for interviews or provide any other needed information.

Thank you for your continued attention to this urgent health crisis.

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Frances Madeson
412-616-0109
<https://francesmadeson.com/>